

# PARTA

# SOUNDINGS

OCTOBER 2023

PEORIA AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

ROGER HAMPTON, EDITOR

## LUNCHEON MEETING

October 2  
11:30 A.M.

Barrack's Cater Inn

Buffet: \$14.00

Cash or Check

Payable to Barrack's Cater Inn



If you have not been contacted by Wednesday, prior to a meeting, please call Patti Monks at 309.697.3385

## GREETERS

Jo Trompeter  
Chris Stevens

## INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Dave Barnwell

## Luncheon

Entrée: Pork Loin  
Vegetable  
Salads | Dessert  
Coffee, Iced Tea, Water

## Business Meeting

Dixie Wheeler,  
CHAIRPERSON

PARTA Website  
[pa-rta.weebly.com/](http://pa-rta.weebly.com/)

Sally Weber  
Webmaster

## HELLO FALL



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## CONVENTION

CONSTITUTION PROFESSIONALS AT S/N INTEREST PEORIA GREATER PEORIA HONOR FLIGHT

Hello, PARTA members and friends, IRTA's convention will be held later this month. We have several delegates going from PARTA—Delores Turner, Valda Shipp, Kathy Simpson, Peggy Shane, Pat Hampton, Roger Hampton, Abby Humbles, John Rathbun, and me – who will be voting on the new constitutional changes. These changes include letting all IRTA members vote no matter where they live or having to be physically present. This update is intended to give all members an opportunity to be more involved with IRTA and issues that affect Illinois retired teachers.



Another IRTA event this month is the Panama cruise. IRTA voyagers will be visiting Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Belize, and Cozumel. I will be playing hostess to our 49 guests aboard ship for 2 cocktail get-togethers during the cruise.

And I hear there is a big prize for some lucky person in the group!  
Dixie Wheeler, PARTA President

## PARTA PROGRAMS

### OCTOBER 2

#### CELEBRATION OF LIFE CEREMONY

SEE PAGE 8 FOR LIST OF NAMES



LEGACY INVESTMENT SERVICES  
TRENT STRONG, SENIOR PARTNER

### NOVEMBER 6

#### GREATER PEORIA HONOR FLIGHT

GENE WALLACE, ALLINE WALLACE, BOB REED



### DECEMBER 4

#### MUSIC OF THE SEASON

ORGANIZED BY DENISE ADAMS



MY FAVORITE COLOR IS **OCTOBER**.

# SOUNDINGS

**PARTA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

The September PARTA Meeting was held at the Cater Inn on September 11, 2023. President Dixie Wheeler presided. Seventy-five members were in attendance. There were no new members or guests. President Wheeler thanked the meeting greeters, Sherry Perez, and Carla Stokowski. Chris Stevens led the pledge and invocation. A moment of silence and prayer was led by President Wheeler in memory of those who lost their lives during 9/11 and their families.

President Wheeler reminded members that Jeff Vallosio had placed the treasurer's report on the tables and to check out the book table and bring batteries to the table for recycling. Jeannie Blane introduced our guest speaker, Lori Fairfield, AMBA's Benefits Advisor.

IRTA is partners with AMBA.

Lori highlighted AMBA's goals:

- To provide an understanding of all programs that are available.
- To ensure members are up to date on any changes that may occur with programs.
- To find ways to serve members' money.
- To help identify gaps in coverage.

She also shared the Core Endorse Benefit Programs through AMBA:

- Extended Care (Aetna)
- Medical Transportation (MASA)
- Critical Illness Protection (Cigna)
- Final Expense (Mutual of Omaha)
- Tax Deferred Asset Protection (Ameritas)

Cards were placed on the tables for members to contact Lori regarding the many programs.



## **BUSINESS MEETING**

The IRTA Convention convenes in Springfield on October 16 and 17. Attendees are Deloris Turner, Valda Shipp, Pat Hampton, Roger Hampton, Dixie Wheeler, Peggy Shane, John Rathbun, and Jeff Vallosio. President Wheeler wanted to know if other members are attending; please let her know.

**FINANCE** (Dave Barnwell): Dave commended Jeff Vallosio for being an outstanding treasurer and keeping the organization afloat. He also mentioned Trent Strong, our Financial Advisor from Legacy Investment Services INC., who does an exceptional job with our investments.

**PROGRAMS** (Jeannie Blane): Jeannie addressed the name change for our October program. Instead of a Memorial, it will be called a Celebration of Life. The purpose is to come together and celebrate our lives, honor those members who are no longer with us, and celebrate with each other. The names of our deceased members will be posted in the *Soundings*.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** (Valda Shipp): Valda reported that PARTA's recipient of the ICC Scholarship is Katrina Johnson, who recently moved to Peoria with her grandmother from Barstow, California. She will receive \$1,000. If members know any students from our area needing a scholarship and pursuing an education degree, contact Valda.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Denise Adams is involved with the play, *Chicago*, at the Eastlight Theatre. The show runs on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. President Wheeler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was moved by Peggy Shane to adjourn and seconded by Sherry Perez.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Deloris Turner, Secretary**



*The weather just went from 90 to 55 as if it saw a state trooper.  
When does it rain money? When there's CHANGE in the weather.*

# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

**AUGUST 28, 2023**

The PARTA Board Meeting was conducted at Lakeview Library on August 28, 2023, at 10:15 AM. Members present were Dixie Wheeler, Valda Shipp, Deloris Turner, Jeff Vallosio, Dave Barnwell, Jeannie Blane, Roger Hampton, Abby Humbles, Peggy Shane, and Sally Weber.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**TREASURER:** Jeff Vallosio reported no money transfer from investments last year but anticipates transferring approximately \$3,000 this year.

**FINANCE:** During the recent meeting, Dave Barnwell praised Trent Strong, PARTA's Financial Advisor at Legacy Investment Services, INC., for his commendable financial advice to the organization. Barnwell recommended that Trent brief the members on the investments during the October meeting, allocating about 15 minutes on the agenda.

**ATTENDANCE/RESERVATIONS:** The year's schedule has been finalized and planned accordingly.

**GREETERS/INVOCATION:** There was no report to provide as the list has been completed.

**LEGISLATION:** According to President Wheeler, there have been few developments regarding IRTA.

**MEMBERSHIP:** According to Roger Hampton, over fifty PARTA life members need contact information. Pat Hampton has been sending letters to encourage membership. Roger also mentioned that PARTA currently has 341 active members, and 784 retired teachers are IRTA members living in Peoria County.

**PROGRAMS:** According to Jeannie Blane, all events have been scheduled until the end of June next year.

**GRANTS:** Deloris Turner reported that the committee will send information to communicate PARTA's Teacher Grant Program during the Spring.

### AGENDA ITEMS

- President Wheeler corrected the last PARTA meeting minutes. AMBA will cover the cost of lunch for new retirees during the September meeting.
- October Program: As there were concerns about the name of the Celebration of Life Memorial Ceremony, the program committee is currently working on a more appropriate title that reflects the event.
- Unit Honoree at the IRTA Convention: PARTA is pleased to announce that Kathy Simpson has agreed to be honored as the official PARTA honoree at the IRTA Convention scheduled for October.
- Convention/Constitution: Roger mentioned that one of the convention's noteworthy proposals would be allowing all IRTA members the right to vote. President Wheeler requested to adjourn the meeting. Abby Humbles made the motion, and Sally Weber seconded it.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Deloris Turner, Secretary**

<b>REPORT</b> 	October 2, 2023 TOTAL PARTA FINANCES: \$ 1,968.65			Jeff Vallosio, Treasurer
	Investment Balance	\$ 54,867.47	Working Cash (cash boxes)	\$ 100.00
	Savings Balance	4,051.25	Post Office Bulk Mail Fund	155.85
	Checking Balance	1,968.65	Post Office Returned Mail Fund	62.10

*Excellence*  
We are going to relentlessly chase perfection, knowing full well we will not catch it, because nothing is perfect. But we are going to relentlessly chase it, because in the process we will catch excellence. ~ Vince Lombardi

# SOUNDINGS

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## TOTAL RETIREE ADVANTAGE ILLINOIS (TRAIL)

The TRAIL Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) Program Open Enrollment runs from October 15 - November 15, 2023. No changes can be made prior to October 15, 2023.

Beginning October 15, 2023, you can go to [MyBenefits.illinois.gov](https://MyBenefits.illinois.gov) to learn more about your new plan. Live TRAIL seminars will be available to provide additional information and answer questions you may have. No action is required, unless you have a change, or you wish to opt-out of the plan. More information will be sent by mail.

**INITIAL ENROLLMENT (IE)** is offered to all Medicare-eligible retirees and their Medicare-eligible dependents within 60-days of the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday (of the youngest enrollee). Initial enrollment is a one-time offer.

**OPEN ENROLLMENT (OE)** is an annual enrollment period held in the fall of each year. This enrollment period is open for Medicare-eligible retirees, survivors, and their dependents to change their elections, or for anyone who previously waived or canceled coverage to re-enroll.

### **YOUNG MAN MAKES WRONG TURN. THEN SAVES SLEEPING FAMILY FROM FIRE**

A driver who took a wrong turn was able to save the lives of four people after miraculously driving down their street and seeing their house on fire. A doorbell camera video captures the moment the young man from Omaha, Nebraska, ran around the house to start banging on windows, and calling 911. Brendan Birt told KETV News 7 that the fire was getting worse every second, but he wasn't giving up. "I just felt like somebody was in there because it was so late at night, you know? I just knew that I had to act quick."



On the video, three kids are eventually seen running out through the door in the Red Oak, Iowa neighborhood—and finally their 22-year-old brother, who was looking after his younger siblings, emerged. When he saw the kids come out the door, Birt said, "I just felt like I wanted to break down and cry (and) I don't even know these people."

The boy's mother, Tender Lehman, was in Montana at the time dealing with a family emergency.

Mrs. Lehman described Birt, who is a singer/musician, as "family", now, and called it a miracle. "They're safe—and they're safe because of him," she told KETV.

*You will never regret being good to others during their time of need.*

# SOUNDINGS

## SMS PHISHING ATTEMPT AT ANOTHER STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM



Teachers Retirement System of Illinois was recently made aware of an SMS phishing attempt at another retirement system within the State of Illinois. Phishing and spam texts are fraudulent attempts to get personal information from you. They typically ask you to click a link. Clicking the link may take you to a website asking you to provide credentials or personal information.

In an attempt to share information with our members and annuitants, TRS is posting this information to let you know that TRS would never ask or request information through a text message. TRS will not share any personal information through text with any entity. If you receive text messages of this type, which appear to be from TRS, please let them know by emailing them and provide any relevant information.



TRS Email Address: [members@trsil.org](mailto:members@trsil.org)

## FALL VS AUTUMN vs HARVEST

### WHY IS IT CALLED FALL?

Recorded use of the word *fall* as the name of the third season of the year comes from as early as the 1500s. The name is thought to originate in the phrase *the fall of the leaf*, in reference to the time of year when deciduous trees shed their leaves. The name of its inverse season, *spring*, is thought to come from the phrase *spring of the leaf*—the time when everything is blossoming. The name *fall* was commonly used in England until about the end of the 1600s, when it was ousted by *autumn*.

### WHEN IS IT CALLED AUTUMN?

The word *autumn* comes from the French *autompne*, from the Latin *autumnus*, whose deeper roots are obscure. It's first recorded in English as early as the late 1300s—notably, both Chaucer and Shakespeare used it in their works. Today, speakers of American English commonly use both *fall* and *autumn* to refer to the season, though *fall* became more common in the US by the late 1800s. Speakers of British English largely use *autumn* or *the autumn season*.

[www.dictionary.com/e/fall/](http://www.dictionary.com/e/fall/)

### THEN WHEN IS HARVEST?

The earliest known name for the season in English is *harvest*. It comes from the Old English word *hærfest*, of Germanic origin, perhaps with an underlying, ancient sense of “picking, plucking” (as in, picking fruits to harvest them). Eventually, the use of *harvest* as a name for the season fell out of use, instead becoming used for the period when ripened crops are harvested—gathered for processing and winter storage. The word *harvest* can also refer collectively to those ripened, gathered crops themselves.

## ACTIVE AGING WEEK: OCTOBER 2-8

This week is meant to celebrate how positive the process of aging can truly be. Active Aging Week encourages adults over the age of 50 to take advantage of all that life has to offer.

The goal of this week is to promote wellness initiatives and to get bodies up and moving!

# SOUNDINGS

## THANK YOU PARTA CALLERS

As PARTA members, it is an important component of the success of our organization to recruit new members. Please extend a warm invitation to any new retired teacher that you may know or to any teachers who are retired and haven't yet joined PARTA or IRTA. Please give this information to your monthly caller or contact Patti Monks. Without our loyal volunteers we wouldn't have such a successful organization.



Thank You!

A huge thank you to these absolutely wonderful PARTA callers:

### REGULAR MONTHLY CALLERS

### SUBSTITUTE CALLERS

Denise Adams	Sharon Couden	Linda Sedgewick	Denise Adams
Marcia Becker	Sonya Durand	Valda Shipp	Peggy Bragg
Laveine Birditt	Lillie Foreman	Kathy Simpson	Pat Hampton
Mary Lou Boettger	Rhonda Kokos	Carla Stokowski	Carla Stokowski
Lynn Campbell	Ann McClain	Glenda Trollope	Catriona Rittenhouse

THANK

*Again, thank you to all of these wonderful ladies for all of the support and help they give PARTA.*

YOU!

### PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR 2023 PARTA DIRECTORY

Richardson	Sam	1700 Robin LN APT 177	Lisle	IL	60532-4170	<i>New Address</i>
Walther	Dan	7127 N Terra Vista DR APT 101	Peoria	IL	61614-1357	<i>New Address</i>
LaCroix	Susan		309.657.4590			<i>Corrected Phone Number</i>
Sullivan	Paula		309.645.1287			<i>Corrected Phone Number</i>

PARTA Members: **PLEASE HELP** keep the database current. please contact **Roger Hampton** with **ANY CHANGES** to your status.

Email: [roger.hampton11138@gmail.com](mailto:roger.hampton11138@gmail.com)

**ALSO**, submit names of PARTA members who are recently deceased.

**We have no current contact information for Life Member:** Jo Geeseman

Next IRTA Educational Webinar – October 11, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.

### *THE TRUE COST OF A CANCER DIAGNOSIS*

The physical toll of a cancer diagnosis is often met with an equally difficult emotional and financial toll. Medicare and most insurance cover a significant portion of the treatment, but studies show that nearly 60% of the total cost of care after the initial treatment is not covered by any form of insurance. Come find out why and what the possible solution is to avoid a significant financial impact to you and your family.

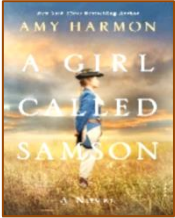
IRTA webinars in the series are free, but you must register to attend.

Halloween is right around the corner. You can tell because all the stores are decked out for Christmas. ~ Stephen Colbert

Clothes make a statement. Costumes tell a story. ~ Mason Coole  
A mask tells us more than a face. ~ Oscar Wilde

# SOUNDINGS

## PARTA MEMBERS READ & RECOMMEND



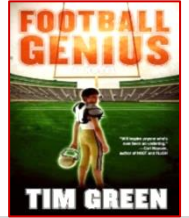
### ***A GIRL CALLED SAMPSON***

by Amy Harmon



### ***FOOTBALL GENIUS***

by Tim Green



In 1760, Deborah Sampson is born to Puritan parents in Plympton, Massachusetts. When her father abandons the family and her mother is unable to support them, Deborah is bound out as an indentured servant. From that moment on, she yearns for a life of liberation and adventure. Twenty years later, as the American colonies begin to buckle in their battle for independence, Deborah, impassioned by the cause, disguises herself as a soldier and enlists in the Continental Army. Her impressive height and lanky build make her transformation a convincing one, and it isn't long before she finds herself confronting the horrors of war head-on. But as Deborah fights for her country's freedom, she must contend with the secret of who she is—and, ultimately, a surprising love she can't deny.

Twelve-year-old Troy White has a phenomenal gift: He can predict football plays before they even happen. Any position. Any player. Any team. When Troy's single mom gets a job working for the Atlanta Falcons, Troy sees this as an opportunity to show what he can do. But first he has to get to the Falcons—and with tight security and a notoriously mean coach, even his mom's field passes aren't much help. Then Troy and his best friends devise a plan to get the attention of star linebacker, Seth Halloway. With Seth's playing and Troy's genius, the Falcons could be unstoppable if they'll only listen. But if he can't convince Seth he's telling the truth, the Falcons' championship and his mom's job are at risk.

## SPOTLIGHT ON AN IRTA MEMBER BENEFIT

### **PASSPORT TRAVEL SERVICES, POWERED BY HOTEL PLANNER**

Save up to 65% worldwide on all your lodging, flights, car rental, and other travel service needs with Passport Travel Services.

**EXCLUSIONS / DISCLAIMERS:** These exclusive offers are provided by Hotel Planner for Passport Members only. Please contact them directly if you need assistance with your travel plans. Additional information regarding Passport Travel Services and Hotel Planner is available at: [www.irtaonline.org/benefits/](http://www.irtaonline.org/benefits/)



Call Lori Fairfield, AMBA Benefits Specialist, at 815.647.8716 for details and information regarding other IRTA/AMBA Benefits.

## OCTOBER

*I would rather sit on a pumpkin,  
and have it all to myself,  
than be crowded on a velvet cushion.*  
~ Henry David Thoreau

*I'm so glad I live in a world  
where there are Octobers.*  
~ L. M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

*There is no season  
when such pleasant and sunny spots  
may be lighted on,  
and produce so pleasant an effect  
on the feelings,  
as now in October.*  
~ Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The American Notebooks*

# SOUNDINGS

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

*Good teachers bring a light so great to the world,  
that even after they have gone, their light remains.*

No  
Picture  
Located

**LUELLA ALLEY (93)**  
12/1/2010 - 7/22/2004



LIFE MEMBERS  
whose information  
was just received.



**ROBERT KOZELKA (101)**  
1/13/1907 - 4/10/2008



**DORIS WINSHIP (91)**  
7/2/1921 - 6/3/2013



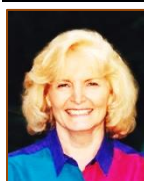
**MICHAEL HARMEN (74)**  
8/9/1940 - 5/5/2015



**JOANN SPURGEON (87)**  
5/31/1933 - 10/17/2020



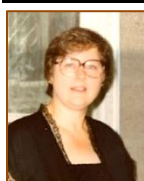
**MARY KRULL (84)**  
7/24/1936 - 6/14/2021



**CAROLYN GUARIGLIA (84)**  
6/22/1938 - 12/29/2022



**DALE SPURGEON (88)**  
1/2/1935 - 1/9/2023



**MARCHIA FORBER (85)**  
3/8/1937 - 1/17/2023



**GARY WOOLEY (88)**  
10/11/1934 - 2/1/2023



**PATRICIA SEYMOUR (86)**  
1/5/1937 - 4/20/2023



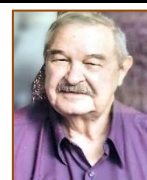
**EARLENE HANLON (92)**  
2/27/1931 - 6/21/2023



**JOAN REIDER (96)**  
1/26/1927 - 7/27/2023



**THOMAS WARD (80)**  
11/19/1942 - 7/4/2023



**JEANETTE BEHREND (85)**  
11/20/1937 - 8/20/2023



**JUDITH SOWERS (88)**  
11/3/1934 - 9/12/2023



*The influence of a good teacher can never be erased.*

